VANCOUVER metro®
NEWS WORTH SHARING.

16 of 29 teams make UBC varsity funding cut

Critics slam 'flawed' and 'divisive' process PAGE 26

It's aliiiiive again

Frankenstein: The College Years? It happened. I, Frankenstein starring Aaron Eckhart is just the latest silver-screen incarnation of the prefab man PAGE 17

FORDIAN SLIP

A NEW VIDEO SHOWS THE TORONTO MAYOR OFF THE WAGON, USING JAMAICAN PROFANITY PAGE 10

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Take a byte out of these e-readers

Tech. Vancouver Public Library loaning out 60 new devices to ensure user accessibility to ebook collection

MATT KIELTYKA
matt.kieltyka@metronews.ca

The Vancouver Public Library wants to ensure that no reader gets left behind the technological curve.

That's why it has purchased 60 e-readers, which are now available to be loaned — free of charge — to Vancouver residents interested in accessing the library's collection of ebooks.

"We really want everyone in Vancouver to have access to ebooks and technology," said Christina de Castell, director of resources and technology at the VPL. "Fifty per cent of people don't have a device to access ebooks and we know another 16 per cent of Vancouver residents don't have access to a computer with Internet at home. We want people to have the option of discovering new technology and not be excluded."

Vancouver Public Library director of resources and technology Christina de Castell says loaning e-readers to library users will help break down technology barriers in the community. MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

The library started loaning ebooks in 2010 and the service was immediately "extremely successful," said de Castell.

Last year, library users borrowed 244,144 ebooks.

That number will continue to grow in leaps and bounds as the market embraces digital distribution.

More than 460 titles were added to the VPL ebook catalogue in the last month alone.

"We hear people read more because of ebooks," said de Castell. "It's convenient to have an e-book on your phone or tablet when you're on the bus or waiting in the doctor's office. It's critical to offer them. Libraries are about discovering information and stories, and technology is a new vehicle for that."

To help those who are new to ebooks and e-readers, VPL offers introductory classes and drop-in tech cafés in addition to a comprehensive online guide.

Other cities, like West Vancouver and Burnaby, have also begun loaning e-readers to users.

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'Reasonable gifts ...'

Should city staff be allowed to accept chocolate gifts?

NPA Vancouver Coun. Elizabeth Ball wants the city to take another look at its gift policy after an incident over the holidays where some employees were told to return boxes of chocolate received at a party.

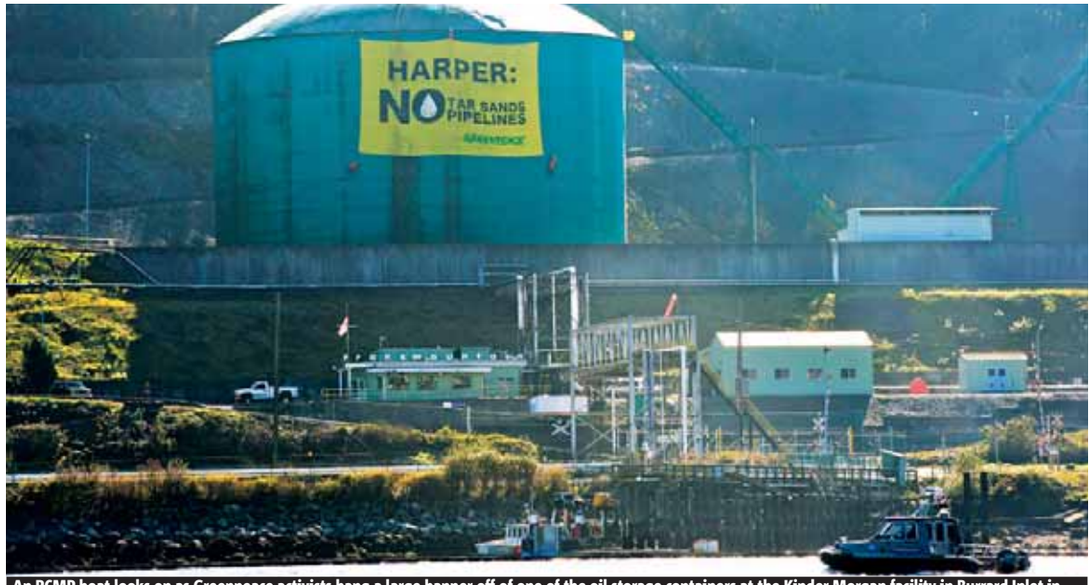
"I would truly believe it's not the intention of the city to be Scrooge-like during the festive season," Ball said while introducing her motion at council Tuesday.

Ball's motion asks staff to revisit the city's code of conduct to make it clear that staff and volunteers may accept "reasonable gifts of chocolate" whether the person is on or off the clock. "It sounds like an unimportant issue in the great scheme of things, but it's important in terms of public relations with community," Ball said. "It's important for humans to be able to say thank you in kind ways and simple ways."

As it stands, the code permits staff to accept a gift only if it costs less than $50 and is received during an activity such as a speaking engagement, technical presentation, business meeting or social obligation related to their city role.

Council will vote on Ball's motion in February. EMILY JACKSON/METRO

A box of chocolates GETTY IMAGES



An RCMP boat looks on as Greenpeace activists hang a large banner off of one of the oil storage containers at the Kinder Morgan facility in Burrard Inlet in Burnaby, Oct. 16. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

MP flooded with calls about Kinder Morgan

Trans Mountain pipeline. Stewart accuses National Energy Board of 'sneak attack' when it quietly opened process for interveners

Burnaby NDP MP Kennedy Stewart says his phones have been ringing off the hook since Monday, when he sent out a robocall warning voters their window to register to object publicly to the proposed Trans Mountain pipeline is rapidly closing.

Stewart claims the National Energy Board, which has a track record of approving most projects, launched a "sneak attack" when it quietly opened the application process for people to sign up as interveners Jan. 15, without issuing a press release.

Stewart estimates after his robocalls went out to 37,000 voters, between 300 and 400 people phoned his office, where he has set up a computer lab to help people with the application process.

"To me, it's really diabolical, that's the word I would use, because it's a sneak attack, and there's thousands of people on this route," he said.

"We already know people that can't sell their homes because of this, and then to have a closing date of Feb. 12, if you don't hit that date, you can't get in to speak or anything, you can't even write a letter."

The NEB is expected to announce its final decision next year on the proposed $5.4-billion pipeline, which would cross about 5,000 properties and 15 First Nations between Edmonton and Burnaby.

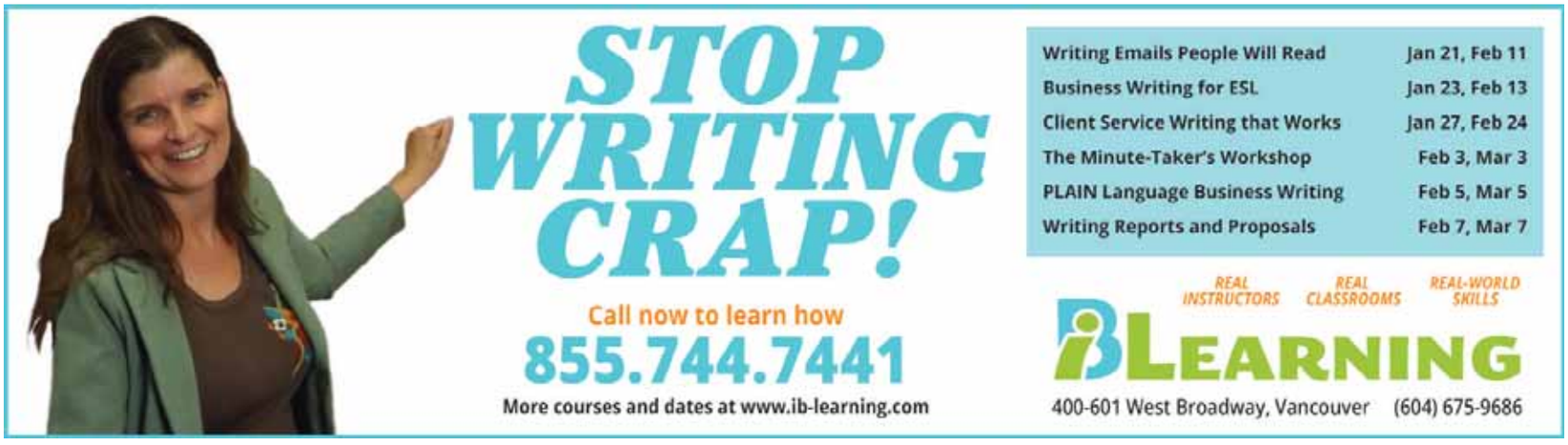
Reaction was mixed on Tuesday when Metro called homes along the proposed construction corridor.

"It's a necessary evil, I would say," said Amiralli Dhalla, who lives in a house just east of the proposed route. "If there is no gas coming, how are you going to go to work or transport to go shopping? Life cannot go on."

To register for a NEB session, visit eply.com/TransmountainPipelineHearing. For information on Stewart's services, visit LetBCDecide.ca. KATE WEBB/METRO

Community info meeting

Burnaby-Douglas MP Kennedy Steward is hosting a community information meeting about the proposed Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion on Saturday at the Confederation Community Centre at 4585 Albert St.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Fruit, candy-flavoured tobacco. Vast majority of teens support a ban: Poll

A new poll suggests teenagers in British Columbia would be in favour of banning fruit- and candy-flavoured tobacco products.

Angus Reid, on behalf of the Canadian Cancer Society, polled more than 1,100 teens and adults in December and found 81 per cent of teens agree B.C. should adopt a ban.

"These numbers speak loud and clear," said Kathryn Seely, director of public issues with the Canadian Cancer Society's B.C. and Yukon branch.

The society has already called on the government to ban the products.

Smoking rate

13%

British Columbia has the lowest smoking rate in the country at 13 per cent.

Seely accuses the flavoured products of "predatory marketing practices" that target youth.

Seventy-four per cent of adults polled by Angus Reid also support a ban.

The cancer society says the majority of new tobacco users are under the age of 18.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

B.C. Education Plan. Chinese centre wants sins of the past in curriculum

Members of The Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Vancouver called Tuesday for historical injustices to be included in the province's school curriculum and textbooks.

A new curriculum on the history of settlement in B.C. is being written as part of the new B.C. Education Plan.

NPA school trustee Sophia Woo said it is important that discrimination against the Chinese is included but added that it shouldn't be limited to the Chinese either.

"It also happened to the South Asians. It happened to the Irish. That's why we need to look into context about what to put into the curriculum," she said.

A proposed motion will be discussed at the next Vancouver school-board meeting on Monday.

SINDHU DHARMARAJAH/FOR METRO

Growing closer

"We're really hopeful that this is a moment in B.C.'s history ... where we can expand our understanding."

Paul Crowe, director of the David Lam Centre at SFU

Nanaimo area

Longboarding teen killed by truck at night

A Vancouver Island teenager has been killed while longboarding near Nanaimo.

RCMP Const. Gary O'Brien says the 17-year-old was riding in the southbound lane of the road directly in front of Cedar Secondary School when he was hit by a northbound flat-deck truck.

O'Brien says the collision occurred Monday evening on a dimly-lit stretch of road and the victim was wearing dark, non-reflective clothing.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Highland Trailer Park

Cops re-examine 70s sex assault

Police are conducting a historical investigation into an alleged sexual assault that occurred in Pitt Meadows 35 years ago.

Police suspect the man lived in a trailer along Planetree Lane in the Highland Trailer Park where the incident is alleged to have taken place. He may have worked at Canada Post, according to Ridge Meadows RCMP.

In a description from the 1970s, the man is said to be five foot 10 inches, Caucasian, in his 30s with curly hair and a gap between his teeth. He would be in his 60s now.

SINDHU DHARMARAJAH/FOR METRO

The hobbit house on King Edward Avenue in Vancouver. ERIC DREGER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Will hobbit house soon be dwarfed?

Lord of the dwellings. Townhouses to move into area occupied by heritage building

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

Densification is coming to the Shire.

The beloved hobbit house on King Edward Avenue is set to get 20 three-storey townhouse neighbours, according to a rezoning application filed in early January by W.T. Leung Architects.

The dwellings will replace single-family homes in the desirable neighbourhood near the Canada Line and the Cambie corridor.

As part of the project, the developer will restore the hobbit house, a fixer-upper built in the 1940s and listed on Vancouver's heritage register.

Heritage advocates feared the thatched-roof house, one of two in the city, was doomed when it was listed for sale at $2.86 million after its longtime owner passed away last spring.

But developer David Mooney had no intention of tearing the house down when he bought the property. Heritage consultant Donald Luxton was hired to retain the house, which will likely be sold as a unit in the strata.

It will be pricey to save the house, Luxton told Metro in June, but the city often grants higher density to developers who preserve heritage buildings.

And the project would certainly increase the population next door to the storybook style house, which is flanked by small single-family homes with yards.

Mayor Robertson not sorry for saying councillor was 'dumping on gay rights'

Vancouver's mayor will not apologize for accusing a city councillor of "dumping on gay rights" for questioning who would pay for Coun. Tim Stevenson to travel to Sochi to promote a pride house.

Coun. Adriane Carr called on Mayor Gregor Robertson to apologize at a council meeting on Tuesday for the remarks he made about Coun. George Affleck in December.

Within an hour, the mayor, who wasn't present, responded on Twitter.

"I make no apologies for @CityofVancouver advocacy for #LGBTQ rights and equality in #Vancouver and globally in #Sochi," he said.

In a newspaper interview, Robertson said: "Affleck was dumping on gay rights and trying to disguise it as a funding issue, which is pathetic.... I just saw a bunch of cheap politicking that's damaging to a human-rights issue."

Councillor's travel bill

Ultimately, the city decided to pay for the trip itself to send a strong message of support to the LGBTQ community.

Carr and Coun. Elizabeth Ball came to Affleck's defence, saying he merely questioned the process.

Affleck, Ball and Carr are the only three councillors not part of Vision Vancouver.

At the meeting in question, Affleck said he "100 per cent" supported the plan.

"I think it's brave of him… I commend him for coming up with this idea," he said. "(But) I'm not going to be intimidated or threatened about asking tough questions." EMILY JACKSON/METRO

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27 years. B.C. man acquitted of sex assaults can't sue prosecutors

The B.C. Court of Appeal says a man who spent 27 years in prison for a series of sexual assaults he didn't commit can't sue the Crown for negligence.

Ivan Henry was convicted of 10 sexual offences against eight complainants in 1983, but it wasn't until October 2010 that he was acquitted of the offences by the same court.

Henry then filed civil lawsuits against the provincial and federal attorneys-general, the City of Vancouver and three members of its police department in June 2011.

He is seeking damages for malicious prosecution, abuse of process and an award for damages to his charter rights over alleged non-disclosure by prosecutors.

Justice Richard Goepel allowed Henry to amend his pleadings for charter damages in April 2013, but the defendants appealed, arguing Henry shouldn't be allowed to seek compensation for conduct that was negligent. Appeal Court Justice John Hall has sided with the defendants, saying the Supreme Court of Canada has ruled that prosecutors can't be held liable. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Homicide investigation

Body found in Surrey

Police in Surrey are investigating a probable homicide after the body of a man was found inside a parked vehicle Tuesday morning. The vehicle was discovered in the 18900 block of 92nd Avenue at 9 a.m.

"We … can say that this incident does not appear to be a random act," said Cpl. Dominic Duchesneau in a release. Investigators are working to confirm the man's identity and to notify his family. Anyone with information is asked to call the IHIT tip line at 1-877-551-IHIT. METRO

Game of Thrones exhibition comes to YVR

Playing it smart. Nearly 100 props will be on display, including the Iron Throne

Don't lose your head, but winter is coming — to Vancouver in August.

Game of Thrones: The Exhibition is coming to the Pacific National Exhibition in Vancouver Aug. 16 to Sept. 1.

Following the success of HBO's Game of Thrones international exhibition in 2013, HBO is extending its global reach in 2014 by visiting Canada, U.S., Mexico, Brazil, Norway and Northern Ireland.

The exhibition will feature all-new installations and offer a fresh perspective on the show by focusing on key places and characters from the series, according to a media release.

The exhibit at the PNE is free with the gate admission.

Laura Ballance, PNE spokesperson, said she is thrilled the exhibition is coming to town.

"It's the type of topic that will have broad appeal, and of course people that are fans of the show we anticipate that this will be very exciting that Vancouver was selected from a handful of cities," she said.

Nearly 100 original artifacts from seasons 1 to 3, as well as select pieces from Season 4, will be on display. Among those artifacts showcased will be costumes, armour, props and weapons. Fans can also have their photo taken on the coveted Iron Throne.

"We really think it'll draw people from across British Columbia as well as the Pacific Northwest," said Ballance.

In addition, fans can immerse themselves in the world of Westeros with a new interactive experience at the exhibition. There will also be an assortment of collectable merchandise from the HBO shop.

Game of Thrones, based on the novels by George R.R. Martin, revolves around seven noble families fighting for control of Westeros. The storyline of treachery and nobility, family and honour, and death and survival has captured the imaginations of fans around the world.

"We think (the exhibition) is going be a big draw and we're really, really excited. A lot of people are anticipating the start of Season 4 and I think that will draw even more momentum going into the fair," said Ballance.

The long-awaited fourth season premiers Sunday, April 6 on HBO Canada.

SINDHU DHARMARAJAH/FOR METRO

Sean Bean portrays Eddard Stark in a scene from the HBO series Game of Thrones. NICK BRIGGS/HBO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Burns Lake. Coroner's office to hold public inquest into mill deaths

A public inquest has been called to look into the deaths of two workers killed when a sawmill in Burns Lake caught fire and exploded two years ago.

Robert Luggi and Carl Charlie were killed and 20 other workers were injured when the massive blast destroyed the Babine Forest Products mill in January 2012. Crown counsel said two weeks ago that no charges would be laid in connection to the fatal fire. A report released by WorkSafeBC last week said the explosion was preventable and was fuelled by too much wood dust.

Lisa Lapointe, chief coroner with the BC Coroners Service, says after reviewing the investigations, there is a benefit to holding an inquest with the goal of preventing future deaths in similar circumstances.

Presiding coroner Chico Newell and a jury are expected to hear evidence from subpoenaed witnesses, but the jury can't make findings of fault or legal responsibility.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Northern B.C.

LNG plans to improve two roads

British Columbia's multibillion-dollar plans for a liquefied natural gas industry will soon affect where the rubber meets the road — literally.

The Ministry of Transportation says it will boost maintenance classifications for Highways 16 and 97 North, which roughly bisect the province through Prince George.

Both routes will receive Class A status, which will mean more maintenance, improved plowing, salting and sanding, quicker response times, and more patrols.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

City asks Canada Post not to stop home delivery

A Canada Post vehicle in Vancouver. Council voted unanimously Tuesday to ask the postal service to suspend the service cuts pending full consultation with communities across the country. ERIC DREGER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Changes. Councillor says it's challenging to retrofit single-family neighbourhoods to fit collective mailboxes

Vancouver isn't a fan of Canada Post's plan to stop door-to-door delivery.

Council voted unanimously Tuesday to ask the postal service to suspend the service cuts pending full consultation with communities across the country.

Meantime, city staff will research how the changes may affect residents, specifically seniors and people with disabilities, NPA Coun. George Affleck said.

"It all came as quite a shock to us to see the mailboxes being taken away and then the flippant comments from the CEO of Canada Post, saying it was good exercise for seniors to get out and walk to their post box," Coun. Kerry Jang said.

Jang also questioned how the changes could affect Health Canada's medical marijuana system, which relies on the postal service for delivery.

On top of difficulties for seniors, many of whom depend on mail for cheques as well as connections to the community, it will be challenging to retrofit single-family neighbourhoods to fit collective mailboxes to avoid congestion and litter, Coun. Geoff Meggs said.

While the post office is "obviously" seeing a dramatic evolution with the advent of email and online shopping, Meggs said it's unfortunate that the union of postal workers is shouldering the blame for labour costs.

"In the last round of bargaining, postal workers made major, major concessions to rectify some of the imbalances in the pension funds," he said.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

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‘The unravelling of Ford’: New vid shows mayor off the wagon

Broken promise. The mayor pledged to clean up his act, but this vid shows he has not done that, says a council member

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford ended weeks of adamant vows that he had given up alcohol by admitting Tuesday that he was drinking the previous night, after a video emerged of him in a rambling, profane rant.

The poorly framed video of the largely incoherent Ford using Jamaican swear words was posted to YouTube anonymously, and appears to have been filmed at a restaurant called Steak Queen in the city’s north west.

Ford admitted he had been drinking, but said it was on his “own time.”

“I was with some friends and what I do in my personal life with my personal friends, that’s up to me,” Ford told reporters outside his city hall office. “It really has nothing to do with you guys.”

The mayor denied that he was on drugs the previous night but wouldn’t say how he got home from the restaurant in that state.

In the video Ford uses profanity, appears to imitate a Jamaican accent and uses the Jamaican swear word bumbaclot, references Toronto Police Chief Bill Blair and counter-surveillance, though full sentences cannot be made out from the audio.

Ford said he did not think the language he used was offensive or discriminatory.

“It’s how I speak with some of my friends,” he said.

Quoted

“We’ve been fairly silent in just waiting for the next thing to occur ... I think we all had sort of concluded it was only a matter of time.”

Coun. Michael Thompson about Ford

Coun. Michael Thompson, the city’s only black councillor, said the mayor’s interpretation of “supposedly being Jamaican” was offensive.

He called it another unfortunate situation in the “unravelling of Rob Ford,” saying many fellow councillors were skeptical of Ford’s claims of sobriety.

Ford’s brother at first denied the video could have been filmed Monday night, both because the mayor looks thinner these days and because he spoke to him at 10:30 p.m.

“Obviously that’s him but it didn’t happen last night,” Coun. Doug Ford told reporters after watching the video. “I’ll repeat what he’s said 10 million times: Beginning of November he hasn’t taken a drink. Very simple.” A user of the social media site Instagram posted a photo around midnight of the mayor posing with two men and identified the location as Steak Queen.

Coun. Joe Mihevic said it appeared from the video that Ford was “off the wagon.”

“It was his commitment that he would clean up his act,” Mihevic said. “What this shows is that he has not done that.”

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford leaves his city hall office on Tuesday. A new video of what appears to be an intoxicated Mayor Ford has surfaced.

ANDREW FRANCIS WALLACE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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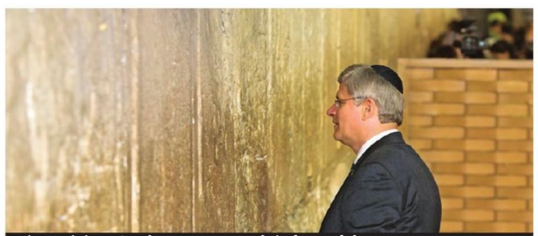
Minister ready with prepackaged federal statements

If there’s a major cyber-attack on Canada, Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney will not be giving the public “specific details” of the incident, newly released briefing notes indicate. However, the minister won’t be at a complete loss for words if he follows the carefully crafted script he’s been provided for just such a terrible occasion. “Cyber-attacks are a global phenomenon,” Blaney is advised to tell Canadians. In fact, Blaney will be ready to respond to other kinds of catastrophes, including a major natural or man-made disaster in Canada. “Our heartfelt sympathies are with the families and friends of those affected by this terrible (type of incident) in (city or town),” he is counselled to say. And if terrorists strike the country? “Canada has suffered a national tragedy.” Blaney is also advised to reassure the public the government “remains unwavering” in its commitment to protect the safety and security of Canadians.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

‘He touched my hand.’ Throngs delighted by Harper’s Israeli stance



Prime Minister Stephen Harper stands in front of the Western Wall, the holiest site where Jews can pray in Jerusalem’s old city, Tuesday. Harper is on an official visit to the region. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Throngs of Israelis literally reached out to touch Stephen Harper on Tuesday as he basked in a hero’s welcome at the sacred Western Wall, shortly after he and his Israeli counterpart insisted their countries do, indeed, have differences of opinion.

The prime minister’s jam-packed second full day in Israel included a morning chat with President Shimon Peres, as well as a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and six Canadian cabinet ministers, including John Baird and Jason Kenney.

Netanyahu and his wife then accompanied Harper and his wife Laureen to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial Museum for a harrowing look back at the horrors perpetrated on the Jews by Nazi Germany.

“They are remembered always, in our hearts, in our prayers and most importantly in our resolve,” Harper wrote in the museum guest book. “Never again.”

Just after sunset, the prime minister was greeted by hundreds of onlookers as he made his way from his vehicle to the wall. A beaming Harper stopped and chatted briefly with the throngs before solemnly observing the wall. After he made his way back to his motorcade, a woman in the crowd was heard to shriek: “He touched my hand!”

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Sochi scrambling to sell tickets amid expense, terrorism concerns

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The situation isn't that bleak for the Sochi Games. Yet, with less than three weeks to go until the opening ceremony, hundreds of thousands of tickets remain unsold, raising the prospect of empty seats and a lack of atmosphere at Russia's first Winter Olympics.

There are signs that many foreign fans are staying away, turned off by terrorist threats, expensive flights and hotels, long travel distances, a shortage of tourist attractions in the area and the hassle of obtaining visas and spectator passes.

"Some people are scared it costs too much and other people are scared because of security," International Olympic Committee member Gerhard Heiberg of Norway said.

Sochi organizers announced last week that 70 per cent of tickets have been sold for the games, which run from Feb. 7-23 and represent a symbol of pride and prestige for Russia and President Vladimir Putin.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A person walks through the main press centre on Jan. 8 in Sochi. MICHAEL HEIMAN/GETTY IMAGES

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Security personnel walk in the Olympic Park in the Coastal Cluster in Sochi, Russia, on Jan. 9. believed to be in Sochi. MICHAEL HEIMAN/GETTY IMAGES

Russians potential

Olympic security. Officials say three 'black widows' are on the loose, including one at large in Sochi

Russian security officials are hunting down three potential female suicide bombers, one of whom is believed to be in Sochi, where the Winter Olympics will begin next month.

Police leaflets seen by an Associated Press reporter at a central Sochi hotel on Tuesday contain warnings about the three potential bombers.

A U.S. congressman who was in Sochi on Tuesday to assess the situation said he was impressed by the work of Russian security forces, but troubled that potential suicide bombers had gotten into the city, despite all of the extraordinary security measures.

"We know some of them got through the perimeter," said Rep. Michael McCaul, chairman of the U.S. House Homeland Security Committee. "She's for real. What we don't know is how many more black widows are out there."

Russian authorities have blamed the so-called "black widows" of slain insurgents for previous attacks in the country.

McCaul, a Republican from Texas, said he had numerous meetings with officials in Moscow and Sochi, and was

Quoted

"How many potential cells could be in Sochi and the Olympic village?"

U.S. Congressman Rep. Michael McCaul, who, despite being impressed by the work of Russian security forces, said he was troubled that potential suicide bombers had gotten into Sochi.

Security officials are searching for three potential suicide bombers, one of whom is

hunting bombers

briefed by the joint operation centre in Sochi, which is responsible for overall security in the area.

The congressman expressed concern that terrorists could have gotten into Sochi before security was tightened.

"How many potential cells could be in Sochi and the Olympic village?" he said. "But after 'the ring of steel' was implemented, we have this one person who seems to have been able to penetrate it. It does demonstrate vulnerability."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The 'black widows'

A photo of a police leaflet seen in a Sochi hotel on Tuesday shows Ruzanna Ibragimova and states that she is at large in the city.

NATALYA VASILYEVA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A police letter said that one of the suicide bombers, Ruzanna Ibragimova, a 22-year-old widow of an Islamic militant, was at large in Sochi.

- Police material distributed to the hotel staff included pictures of two other women in veils: 26-year-old Zaira Aliyeva and 34-year-old Dzhannet Tsakhayeva.
- It said the women had been trained "to perpetrate acts of terrorism."

Olympic band may play gay anthem YMCA as a 'signal' of solidarity

The Dutch brass band that always performs at Olympic speed skating ovals is considering playing a popular gay song, Village People's YMCA, at the Sochi Winter Olympics to show its support for gay rights.

It remains to be seen how Russian and Olympic authorities would react should the Kleintje Pils band play a song widely considered to be a gay anthem. A ban on information about "non-traditional sexual relations" signed into law by Russian President Vladimir Putin has provoked widespread international outrage from critics who believe it discriminates against gays.

Bandleader Ruud Bakker said on Tuesday that Kleintje Pils could mix YMCA in its singalong repertoire as "a signal." But he added that the band didn't want to antagonize organizers or turn its performances into a "political game."

"We will see if we can get one or two songs into the selection, knowing that in the Netherlands it will be seen as a signal we are thinking of them (gays)," Bakker said.

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Fishermen on boats catch bottlenose dolphins during the selection process in Taiji, western Japan, Sunday. A Japanese government spokesman defended the annual dolphin hunt, saying it is carried out in accordance with the law. The controversial hunt was the subject of the 2009 film The Cove. SEA SHEPHERD CONSERVATION SOCIETY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dolphin hunt the largest in years

Japan. Fishermen say the hunt is part of their tradition and call foreign critics who eat other types of meat hypocritical

Japanese fishermen have finished killing about 40 dolphins targeted for their meat as part of a larger group trapped recently in what activists say was the biggest roundup they have witnessed in the last four annual hunts.

Total number captured

250

Sea Shepherd, best known for its anti-whaling activities, said that of roughly 250 captured dolphins, the fishermen first selected 52 to keep alive for sale to aquariums and other customers. They included a rare albino calf and its mother.

A video released Tuesday by Sea Shepherd shows dozens of fishermen on boats surveying the dolphins after they were confined to a cove with nets. Divers can be seen holding the dolphins selected for sale and guiding them to nets hanging off the boats.

While other dolphins have been killed since the hunting season began in September, Sea Shepherd said the 250 herded into the cove last Friday was the largest group it has seen since it began monitoring the hunt.

The annual hunt in the village of Taiji received high-profile criticism when U.S. Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy tweeted last weekend that she was deeply concerned about the practice.

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Stars help millennials shoot for the moon

Wayward millenials trying to find their way could possibly meet with astronaut Chris Hadfield to discuss their career options over coffee. GETTY IMAGES

Taking off. A galaxy of leaders, including astronaut Chris Hadfield, connect with millennials to help get their work lives off the ground

Dave Wilkin credits a meeting over coffee with changing his life and setting him on a path.

A student at the University of Waterloo, he had a single goal: Find a job.

He sent out hundreds of emails to business leaders in hopes of landing work. In most cases, he didn't hear back at all.

But he got a response back from Mia Pearson, a communications executive, who invited him to meet her for a coffee at a Toronto café. Within minutes of the meeting, she urged Wilkin to start his own company.

He did just that — and nearly five years later, his social media marketing firm Redwood Strategic, which specializes in targeting millennials, is doing a booming business.

But Wilkin, 25, knows many young people, whether they are still in school or figuring out what career to pursue, would benefit from the guidance he got.

So Wilkin is taking that idea of the coffee conversation and formalizing it as Ten Thousand Coffees, which launched Tuesday at tenthousandcoffees.com.

Some heavy hitters have signed up: Astronaut Chris Hadfield, comic Rick Mercer and Twitter Canada head Kirstine Stewart. Bank executives, non-profit leaders, lawyers and academics are among the 300 experts in 21 industries participating.

Even though the program is called Ten Thousand Coffees, Wilkin says the meetings connecting Gen Y and seasoned experts can be over coffee or take place anywhere, including on Skype, Google Hangouts or "any vehicle to ignite the conversations."

The meetings can focus on career advice, how to start a business, or simply sharing a big idea, but Wilkin said it is up to the individuals to decide, and whether they want to formalize the relationship.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Waterloo, Ont.

BlackBerry selling most real estate holdings in Canada

BlackBerry is selling the majority of its commercial real estate holdings in Canada, but the struggling smartphone maker refused to say how much it expects to make from the deals.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Montreal

Bomardier cuts 1,700 staffers

Bombardier is permanently laying off 1,700 employees in its aerospace division, mostly in Montreal, as it steps up efforts to cut costs amid delays with two new aircraft and a tough market for both commercial and business planes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

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TSX
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WATCHING NHL SAME AS BAR BRAWL

JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

Good morning, class.

Today's topic is: NHL hockey — Big League or Bush League?

Yes, we have to go there after Saturday night, when the Vancouver Canucks and Calgary Flames re-enacted that classic hockey movie Slapshot by starting a brawl off the opening faceoff.

Once the final whistle (mercifully) blew, the referees had assessed 204 minutes in penalties, and Kellan Lain, a new Canucks bruiser playing his first game in the bigs, set an NHL record for being ejected two seconds into the start of his career.

As amazing as all that was, it was nothing compared to what happened between the first and second period, when Canucks coach John Tortorella decided to invade the Calgary dressing room in an attempt to get to Calgary coach Bob Hartley, no doubt to enter into a dialogue about fostering peaceful coexistence.

Tortorella has been suspended for 15 days without pay to cool off, but enjoys a hero's status in Vancouver, where he's being hailed as some kind of hockey warrior god who sticks up for his guys.

Of course, the whole episode is not playing so well outside Metro Vancouver. In fact, Peter Gammons, who works for Major League Baseball, went as far as to tweet, "Calgary and Vancouver last night reiterated why the NHL is a minor sport."

Wounded hockey fans wanted to know who the hell this Peter Gammons is, and I guess it won't matter that he was America's National Sportswriter of the year in 1989, '90 and '93 and received an honorary Poynter Fellowship from Yale. Betcha he's a pussy.

Meanwhile, hockey fans are still getting a buzz off the Winter Classic on New Year's Day when 100,000 turned up in a snowstorm to watch the Leafs beat the Red Wings. See? Ain't no minor sport.

So is a sport that features the on-ice equivalent of a barroom brawl right from the opening faceoff a minor sport or not? And speaking of minorities, I never feel more minor than when I'm at the arena and a couple of goons drop their gloves. Thousands of otherwise sane and rational moms, dads, friends and lovers leap to their feet and let out a bloodthirsty roar of approval. The only thing better, apparently, than two goons, is 10 goons.

At least, say hockey's apologists, we no longer have bench-clearing brawls. Well, that's a relief. Now all we have to do is put an armed guard outside the opposing team's dressing room in case Coach decides to go postal between periods.

Oddly enough, I still believe pro hockey is big league. The brilliance of the playmaking, skill and speed somehow survives the worst efforts of its most dedicated cavemen.

And you'll be pleased to hear a recent survey shows that fighting has declined. There are only 0.88 fights a game! It's the dawn of civilized hockey.

Now if someone would just tell the coach.

ZOOM

Hue can be happy with colour

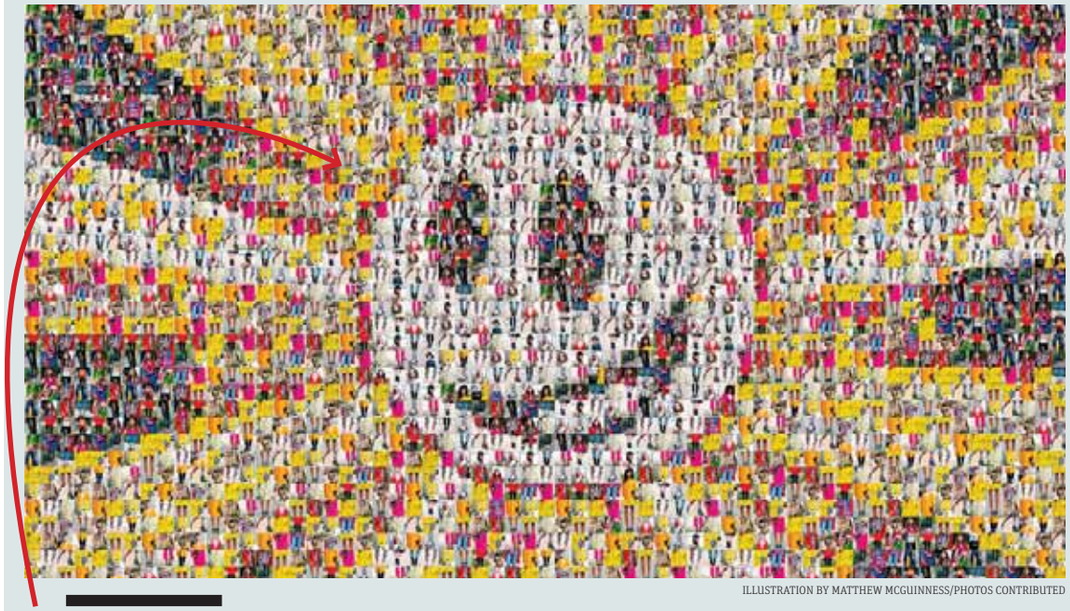

ILLUSTRATION BY MATTHEW MCGUINNESS/PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Pleasing to more than just the eye

Thousands of vibrant street style photos (right) were used to design this mood-boosting sun illustration.

The colour yellow is associated with invigorating your state of mind, while red, a tempestuous shade and pigment of passion, can swing either way in the direction of love or hate. Colour does affect your mood. Angela Wright, one of the leading experts in colour psychology and author of A Theory of Colour Psychology and Colour Harmony, roots this in evolution: "Humans have developed an innate reaction to colour as a survival mechanism. People derive deep spiritual pleasure from the rich greens of a summer landscape but can be depressed by long periods of grey, overcast weather." METRO

Clickbait

TAKARA SMALL
takara.small@metronews.ca

It's right about this time of year — just after Christmas but before the yearly April tax deadline — that people tend to take a closer (some would argue honest) look at their personal finances. They hum and haw over what they've saved too little for or, if you're like me, spent too much on. There's plenty of reasons to get your finances in order, but thanks to an increasingly crowded app environment, more and more companies are creating applications to make budgeting easier. Here are some budget apps to help clean up your money woes:

ISTOCKIMAGES

Level money:

Devoid of the snark and finger wagging that usually accompanies budget apps, this money saver breaks down how much you spend into easy-to-read graphs. You can see how much you spend every day, week and month, with new transactions added to your budget in real time.

Mint:

This app keeps track of your money and goals by using your financial information (bank accounts, loans) to keep tabs on you. Every transaction you make is logged and will warn you if you spend more than you've budgeted for any activity — think shopping or dinners out.

Debt Manager:

If you're one of many Canadians whose finances are in the red, then this app is for you. Besides a progress bar and accrued-interest guides, it also keeps track of monthly payments for those pesky student loans and your monthly transactions.

Twitter

@metropicks asked: You can get insurance to cover 'change of heart' for your wedding. If you could get it, would you?

@Canucklehead_ca: No. That being said, my wife is curious if it can be bought retroactively - say a decade and a bit? (Must be asking for a friend.)

@MileagePhoto: would buy this for pizza that has been ordered but not yet delivered.

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Frankenstein's creation is back from the dead, again

Creature feature. The monster may have many names, but he's been a fixture on the silver screen since the birth of cinema

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

The eight-foot-tall, gruesomely ugly creation of Victor Frankenstein has been called many things. In the original Mary Shelley novel he is named The Ogre. In the credits of the Boris Karloff film he is referred to as The Monster. He's also been called a fiend, the thing and the demon.

All those terms are apt for a creature born of dead body parts but a new movie adds a different name to the list — Adam. As in Adam Frankenstein.

I, Frankenstein stars Aaron Eckhart as Adam, the prefab man. He's now an immortal martial arts expert battling a war between rival clans in an ancient city. The character takes the name from the Shelley book. Sort of.

Shelley never gave the monster a name. People often mistakenly refer to him as Frankenstein, but in the novel the creature says to Victor, "I ought to be thy Adam; but I am rather the fallen angel."

Whatever you want to call him, Frankenstein's Monster has always been a popular character in the movies.

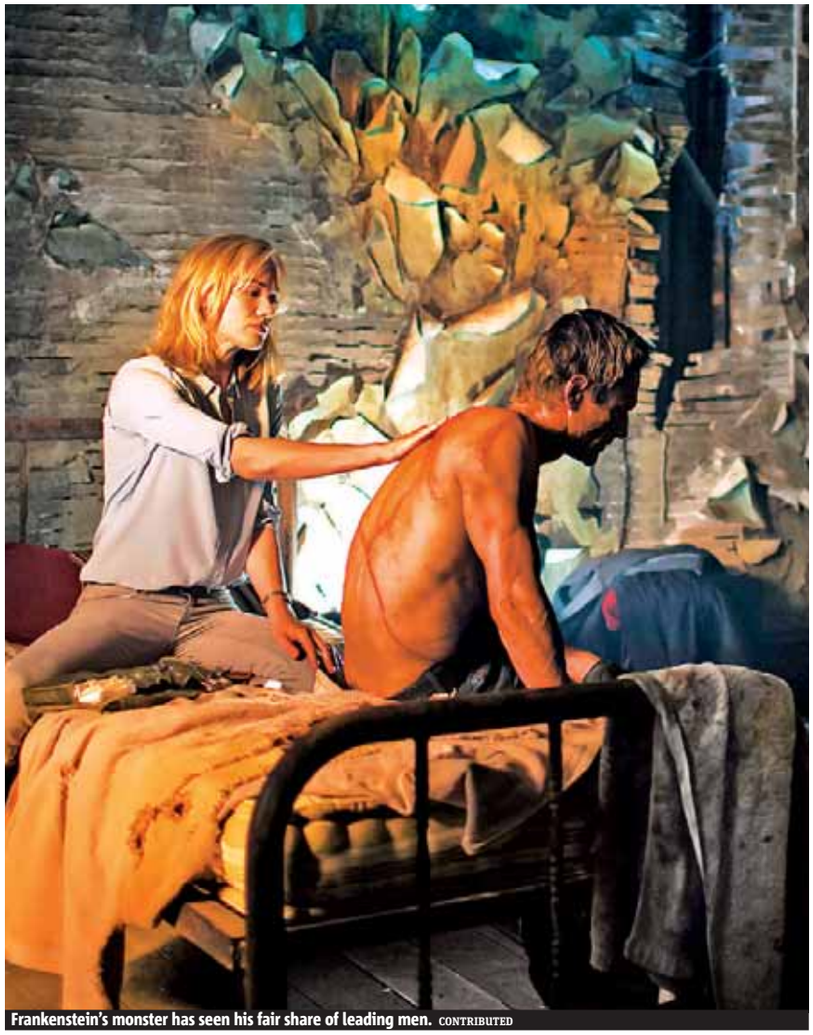
The most famous film featuring the creature has to be Boris Karloff's 1931 classic, but it wasn't the first. Five silent films, one with the dramatic title Life Without Soul and another that featured the brute emerging from a cauldron of fiery chemicals, all played to packed houses.

From those dramatic beginnings dozens of movies followed.

Robert De Niro played the beast in Mary Shelley's Frankenstein. On the set director Kenneth Branagh banned the word "monster," insisting instead that everyone refer to the creature the same way he is billed in the credits, as "The Sharp Featured Man."

Frankenstein: The College Years is basically an unlikely mix of Shelley's story and Encino Man. Directed by Tom Shadyac, this 1991 comedy sees college student Mark (William Ragsdale) reanimate Dr. Frankenstein's creature who then becomes a football star and a big man on campus known as Frank N. Stein (Vincent Hammond). "He blends right in," says Mark of the six-foot-nine Frank. "He's a regular invisible man."

The movie The Bride, a 1985 remake of The Bride of Frankenstein starring Sting and Jennifer Beals, gave the fiend yet another name. He was dubbed Viktor but not in tribute to his creator Victor Frankenstein. In this retelling the good doctor is known as Baron Charles Frankenstein. The name Viktor was chosen in tribute to the film's producer Victor Drai.



Frankenstein's monster has seen his fair share of leading men. CONTRIBUTED

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Tom Mison plays Ichabod Crane in the TV series Sleepy Hollow. CONTRIBUTED

Star says finale will make you scream

Sleepy Hollow. Tom Mison predicts fans are in for a sleepless night

British actor Tom Mison, who plays Ichabod Crane on the series Sleepy Hollow, said in a recent interview that in the two-hour season one finale, airing Monday evening, "There will be so many revelations and so many shocks that you'll want to stay up and scream at a wall and probably hit your head against a wall and so many surprises that you're gonna kick yourself that you didn't see some of these coming."

It might sound dramatic, but the actor said he believes the fans will be surprised because of clues they likely missed along the way.

"The seeds have been sewn throughout the season, clues as to what's coming, and as far as I know, nobody's really guessed anything," Mison said.

Sleepy Hollow is described as a retelling of the Washington Irving short story but set in the modern day. Ichabod has awoken two centuries after being killed in the Revolutionary War. He must adjust to this new time period, battle the headless horseman and prevent the looming apocalypse.

"There's nothing else like it really," Mison said. "If you're a fan of procedurals then you'll like it. If you're a fan of horror then you'll like it."

Plus it's funny, especially as Ichabod tries to get comfortable in the 21st century. One especially humorous scene features him pouring his heart out to the OnStar voice in a car.

The cast and crew are on hiatus before season 2 begins filming, and Mison said he can't wait to return to work.

"After a very, very strenuous hardworking season it's so nice that I haven't left it thinking, 'I need to go and lie down,'" he said. "Instead it's that I can't wait to find out what's going to happen."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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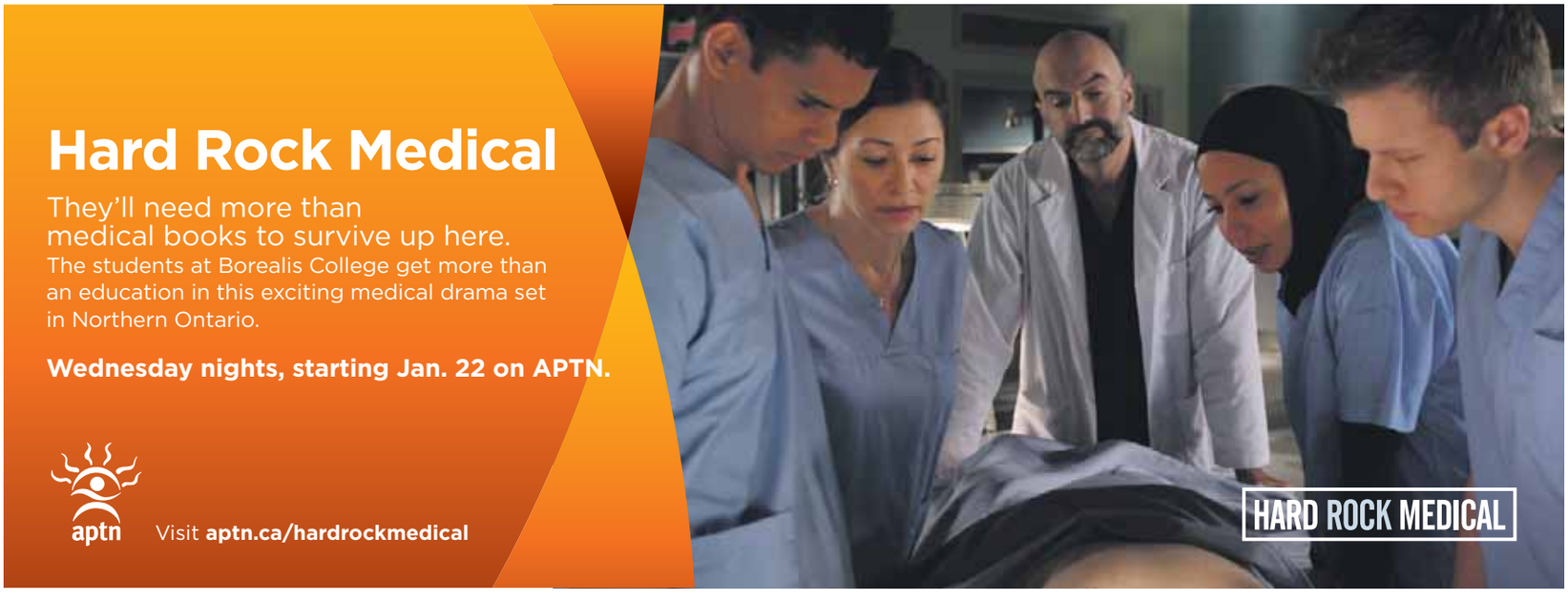
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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Kelly Osbourne allegedly made a scene during a recent Joan Rivers gig.
ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Osbourne throws her hands in the air like she just don't care (and like she got totally blotto)

Joan Rivers is a pro when it comes to dealing with hecklers at her stand-up shows, but what about when the nuisance is caused by a co-worker? A seemingly intoxicated Kelly Osbourne reportedly made quite a scene at Fashion Police co-host Rivers' recent gig in Los Angeles, according to Radar Online. "Kelly had one drink before the show started, and then during the show she got up and went to the bar to get even more drinks," a source says. "Kelly was yelling things out to Joan during the show when no one else was and she was throwing her hands up in the air. She was doing it obnoxiously. Everyone around her thought she was drunk." After the show, another witness spotted Osbourne "banging on the door to get backstage after the show. She grabbed her friend as she was leaving and was hanging onto him. It seemed so obvious that she had been drinking."

The Word

Justin Bieber leaves his autograph... in the snow

MELINDA TAUB
Metro World News

What's the best way to distract from a sexting scandal, alleged drug abuse and possible criminal vandalism charges? How about adding public urination into the mix?

That's the strategy that Justin Bieber is reportedly deploying, at any rate. Biebs and his posse are in Colorado right now. They were on the road when the pop star felt the sudden call of nature and decided to pull over to relieve himself. But not in the woods or off the freeway — rather, in the affluent residential neighbourhood of Snowmass.

According to TMZ, local residents looked on in shock as Bieber peed in the snow right in front of them. After he'd zipped up and headed off to take care of whatever important Bieber business he was pursuing, they crept up to the scene of the crime and found that he'd whizzed his initials into the snow.

Kanye West

'God, sex and alcohol': The Kanye way

If you were curious as to how Kanye West coped with the aftermath of his infamous 2009 MTV Video Music Awards stage-crashing of Taylor Swift, it was with "God, sex and alcohol," he tells 12 Years a Slave director Steve McQueen in a feature for Interview Magazine. "I don't have an addictive personality, so that means that I can lean on what might be someone else's vice just enough to make it through to the next day. You know, just enough religion, a half-cup of alcohol with some ice in it and a nice chaser, and then I'd make it to the next week."

Harry Styles cozies up to mystery brunette at Sundance

Harry Styles is still romantically linked to Kendall Jenner, but the One Direction star was turning heads at the Sundance Film Festival thanks to the attention he was paying to a brunette member of his entourage, according to E! News. "He was with three guys and two girls. They were all sitting together in a corner booth laughing and having a good time," a source says. "As the night went on, I could see Harry flirting with the brunette. At one point it was just the two of them canoodling in the corner. They were really into each other." But Jenner shouldn't worry too much, as the source insists that getting cozy and flirty was as far as it went.

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THE OTHER SIDE

Fans of the Beatles are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the band's U.S. televised debut. While it all culminates with a star-studded Los Angeles tribute concert (to be televised Feb. 9), there are many other ways to honour the Fab Four around the globe.

STEVE GOW
life@metronews.ca

5 Stops on a Magical Mystery Tour

Liverpool, U.K.

The birthplace of the Beatles. There's perhaps no better place to bathe in Beatlemania than Liverpool. Whether it's touring the Beatles Story museum — which boasts the biggest permanent exhibition faithful to the Fab Four — visiting the childhood homes of John Lennon and Paul McCartney or sleeping at the Yellow Submarine Hotel floating in historic Albert Dock, the Merseyside city is the epicentre for fans. Be sure to stop by the infamous Cavern Club and grab a pint where The Beatles performed over 290 shows in their early days.
Songs to highlight your visit: Penny Lane, Yellow Submarine

Abbey Road, London

On the bucket list of most Fab Four followers is getting to London's famous Abbey Road. Located in the St. John's Wood district of the English capital (don't get confused with the Abbey Road transit station in the east end), this simple crosswalk is where many Beatlemaniacs recreate the iconic street-crossing cover of group's last recorded album. While the actual Abbey Road Studios is a short stroll away, don't expect much access to the Beatles' famous song salon. It's still a world-class workshop for musicians.
Songs to highlight your visit: Come Together, Something

Love, Las Vegas

Since 2006, Las Vegas has been an unlikely destination for Beatles fans by playing host to Love, the fabulous Cirque du Soleil show designed to celebrate the group's music. Created by Cirque founder Guy Laliberté and legendary Beatles producer Sir George Martin, the Grammy-winning musical brings the songs to life.
Songs to highlight your visit: Octopus' Garden, All You Need is Love

Strawberry Fields, New York

John Lennon may have lived in Manhattan for less than a decade, but he left an indelible mark on the city. With an entrance directly across from the Dakota apartments (where Lennon lived for the latter part of his life), Strawberry Fields in Central Park is a large, serene memorial garden dedicated to Lennon. A short walk through will reveal the famous Imagine pathway mosaic.
Songs to highlight your visit: Strawberry Fields Forever, Imagine

Imagine Peace Tower, Iceland

The Beatles' legacy has even pervaded the north. Visitors to Videy Island near Iceland's capital of Reykjavik can see the Imagine Peace Tower that was built to honour John Lennon. Created by Yoko Ono, the tower bears the words "imagine peace" in 24 languages, and the memorial often sends beams of lights toward the skies.
Songs to highlight your visit: Across the Universe, The Ballad of John and Yoko

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Does a Tahiti trip tickle your fancy?

Paradise, please.
A personal travel consultant offers his take on the quintessential dream destination

ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

Have the winter blahs got you dreaming of a tropical paradise? According to my personal travel consultant, Carl Henderson, it doesn't get any better than Tahiti. Here's what he had to say about the dream destination.

What is Tahiti?
Like Hawaii and the Hawaiian Islands, Tahiti is the name commonly used to refer to a network of hundreds of different islands that make up French Polynesia. In fact, Tahiti is only one island out of six or seven that tourists tend to visit. It is also home to Papeete, the capital city where international flights arrive. From there the most popular route is to head to the island of Moorea for a few days, which is about a half hour ferry ride or seven minute flight away, and then continue over to Bora Bora.

What are the highlights?
Moorea and Bora Bora are a must. Moorea offers an incredible land experience, whether you rent a car or join a tour. I recommend the guided ATV or 4 x4 tours to the interior where you can get up close and personal with a volcano. Guides give you great insight into the culture and history of the islands. Bora Bora is all about the water and the lagoon. Get out on the water, snorkel, dive, jet ski, sail or try out a stand up paddle board. It doesn't matter, it's all good. The lagoons are filled with marine life; sharks, stingrays and amazing coral gardens.

Tahiti is one of the priciest destinations in the world, but its water bungalows are the stuff of dreams. ISTOCK

What should people consider when planning a trip here?
Have a big budget, as this is a high-end destination. Expect to pay at least $300 a night for a basic room on Moorea or some of the smaller islands. After that, the sky is the limit. Those picturesque over-the-water bungalows are easily $1,500 a night. Fly via Los Angeles as it offers the most connections. I also like flying with Air Tahiti Nui, where your experience begins as soon as you get on board.

Seems like a big trip... Is it worth the extra distance?
I've been to 56 countries and have never seen anything as beautiful as Tahiti and the islands. Forget the high rises and crowds you find in Cancun — this place is remote. Hawaii gets the same number of visitors in 12 days as Tahiti does in a year, so there's tourism but not mass tourism. Everyone who goes loves it and dreams of going back.

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Ward off winter's chill with a cup of cheer

Icewine. Canada leads the world in the creation of this syrupy sweet treat

Icewine producers must follow strict standards determined by the Vintners Quality Alliance. THE CANADIAN PRESS

A wine columnist is urging Canadians to drink icewine while cheering on the country's Olympians next month.

"It's Canada's winter gold. I can't imagine a better way to celebrate our Canadian winters. I kind of think about our Canadian athletes too and I think we all should be drinking icewine while watching the Olympics," says Natalie MacLean, editor of the wine review site nataliemaclean.com, which has more than 156,000 members.

"It's uniquely Canadian in that we are the biggest producer and the best producer, I think, in terms of quality. It's just such an all-Canadian treat that I think people need to at least try it to experience what it is we do so well here."

Canada stands at the top of the icewine podium, with almost 100 wineries last year producing 2.5 million bottles worth $70 million at retail. The country's icewine has won numerous gold medals internationally.

While Germany and Austria also make the sweet beverage, their winters are not cold enough to consistently produce icewine every year.

Icewine makers must deal with the whims of Mother Nature. "I do think they are the true athletes of the vine, those who make icewine. It's like extreme winemaking," MacLean said by telephone from Ottawa.

"I think it's one of the toughest types of wine you can make on this planet because of the natural conditions that have to be there to produce this.

"They have to endure all of that — harvesting at -8 C or colder and so on, (and a) very difficult fermentation process because of high sugar. But then the artistry comes out."

Icewine is pricey due to the production process. Still icewines can range from $25 to $60 for a 375-millilitre bottle, while sparkling icewines can cost up to $80 for the same size.

Drink it in

- **The Niagara Icewine Festival.** Runs until Jan. 26. Events in the 17th annual festival are being hosted throughout the region. niagarawinefestival.com
- **Nova Scotia Winter Wine Festival.** Several local wineries are collaborating on special icewine tours and tasting events in Nova Scotia Wine Country. Runs Feb. 7-16. winesofnovascotia.ca

In Canada, winemakers producing true icewines must follow strict standards determined by the Vintners Quality Alliance.

Icewine is produced from grapes that have been left on the vine after the fall harvest. When temperatures drop to -8 C or lower, the frozen grapes are picked, typically at night, and pressed immediately, with winemakers working around the clock in sub-zero conditions.

"A lot of growers will pick down to -12 C, but at -14 it's really hard to get any juice out of those little frozen pellets," explains MacLean. "At -16 they won't yield anything. They'll just break your press. They're ice marbles." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Pillowy softness and slight crunch in every bite

Roasted Cauliflower and Chorizo Gnocchi.

The chunky sauce in this dish offers perfect texture and flavour

DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

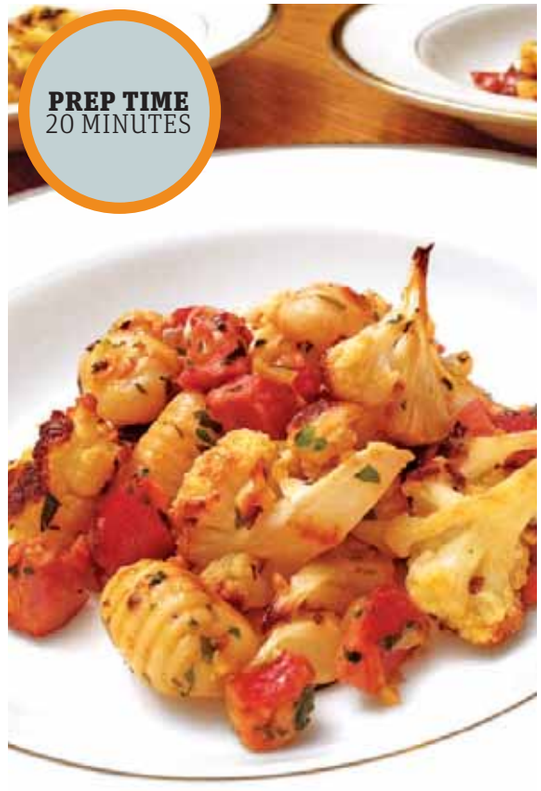
There are so many people who just don't like cauliflower. But why? It is such a versatile and delicious vegetable, raw or cooked.

You can add it to soups or stews for added vegetable flavour and texture. Serve it up raw or blanched on a veggie tray, or how about pickled — one of my faves!

My current favourite way, however, to serve up cauliflower is roasting it. It adds a slight crunch and decadent flavour that is so simple but yet addictive. I am pretty sure I have eaten a whole head of roasted cauliflower myself after taking it out of the oven!

So how do you roast cauliflower? I've found the best approach is to simply remove the stem and tough core and cut the cauliflower into small florets. By doing this, more surface area gets exposed to becoming roasted and charred for an absolutely delightful texture and flavour.

In this particular recipe, I pumped up the flavour of the cauliflower by adding semi dry chorizo sausage and simple onion, garlic and parsley. It resulted in a dish worthy of my own restaurant menu.



This recipe makes six servings. EMILY RICHARDS

Ingredients

- 1 head cauliflower, cut into small florets
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) extra virgin olive oil
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) each salt and fresh ground pepper
- 1 pkg (250 g) semi cured mild chorizo sausage, chopped
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) chicken or vegetable broth
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) chopped fresh parsley
- 1 pkg (1 lb/454 g) gnocchi (fresh or frozen)
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) butter

1. In a large bowl, toss the cauliflower florets with 2 tbsp (30 ml) of the extra virgin oil, salt and freshly ground pepper. Spread over parchment paper lined baking sheet and roast in 400 F (200 C) oven for about 45 minutes or until golden brown and tender crisp. Set aside. You can do this the night before for a quick weeknight meal the next day.

2. In nonstick skillet, heat the remaining extra virgin oil over medium heat and sauté the chorizo sausage, onion and garlic for about 8 minutes or until soft and starting to become golden. Stir in the chicken or vegetable broth and parsley. Keep warm.

3. Meanwhile, in a pot of boiling salted water, cook gnocchi for about 5 minutes or until they float to the top and are tender but firm. Using a small sieve lift gnocchi out of water and add to skillet with sausage and onion. Add butter and cook over low heat. Stir in roasted cauliflower and toss to combine until heated through. Serve in shallow bowls.

From Loose Change to Luxe:

How to do Dine Out™ on a budget and in style

Vancouver, BC

Part 1: Loose Change

January is that time of year when we start pinching pennies – or, these days, nickels – to pay off our post-holiday credit card bills. And that's why Dine Out Vancouver™ Festival was created: to encourage people to get out and enjoy Vancouver's restaurants and hotels affordably and in style.

Dining out needn't be an expensive affair, especially during this year's festival. After all, there are 46 restaurants listed in the $18 price category, each offering a sumptuous three course dinner (excluding drinks, tax and tip). If you really want to splurge, add the recommended BC VQA wine pairings – oh-so-decadent.

If you're interested in a more unusual experience, the festival also features a number of food-themed events ranging from free to $50.00. Case in point: starting today and running through Sunday, Street Food City III, Vancouver's original food cart festival, takes over the North Plaza of the Vancouver Art Gallery. More than 15 food trucks will gather together offering Dine Out™ specials at discounted prices with tents and seating – and best of all, entry is free.

Rocky Mountain Flatbread is offering two events under $30 – on January 28, for example, you can attend "Dough Goes Local", a pizza dough-making demo that also includes wine tastings and a selection of sprouted grain flatbreads and dips ($22). If more wine is what you want, try "The Grape Debate" on January 31, where experts discuss the heated topic "Is wine made in the vineyard or in the winery?" ($38), followed by a wine tasting supported by more than 20 BC wineries.

Finally, you can book an overnight stay at one of Dine Out Vancouver™ Festival's participating hotels. Room only rates start at $78 per room per night, and there are special packages too.

www.dineoutvancouver.com

On Friday we'll discuss Dine Out™ Van Fest when money is no object.

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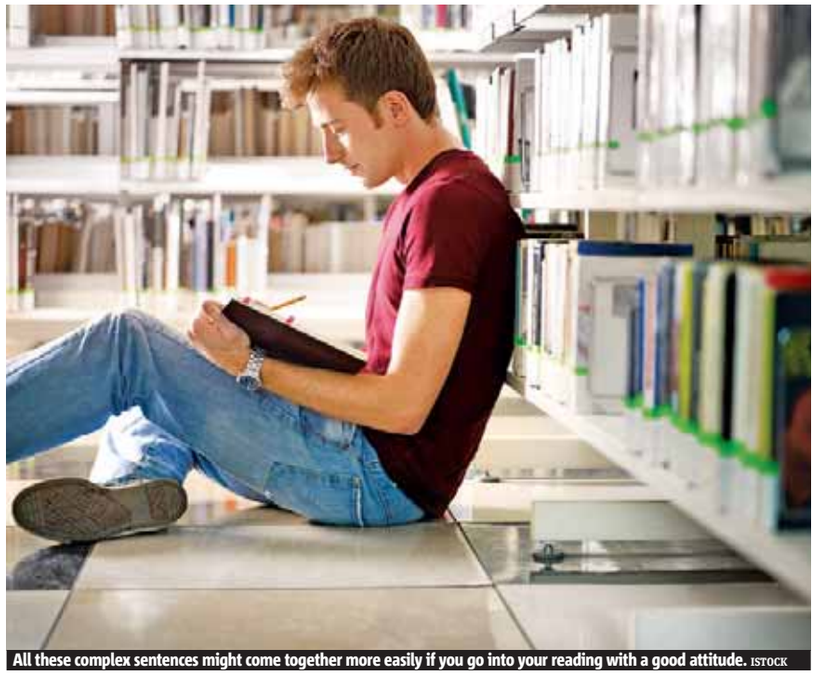
Don't stop rereading, hold on to that info!

Ask a professor. If the way you're reading isn't working, then you need to change it up so that the readings stick.

LEE SKALLERUP BESSETTE
Metro World News

At the beginning of the semester, I always ask my students how they do their reading. Do they find themselves reading and rereading the same sentence or paragraph over and over again, realizing at the end of it that they haven't retained anything?

Then, I ask them where and when they do their reading: before bed at night, in front of the TV or computer, in the common area of the residence hall or student centre? These things matter when it comes to good reading habits.



All these complex sentences might come together more easily if you go into your reading with a good attitude. ISTOCK

Getting up earlier and heading to the library or another quiet place rather than waiting until you're tired and run-down from the day can help.

Minimize the distractions by hiding your phone and reading in a place with no screens around to distract you.

The second thing I ask my students is why they think their professors assign them readings in the first place. It isn't surprising that students find the readings professors assign difficult? They go in with the expectation to be entertained, rather than intellectually challenged.

From text to la tête

Each time you read, you'll find something new, learn something different, and retain more and more of what you need to know.

So, I tell my students, change your expectations and find a way to engage your brain. Take notes, write questions in the margins, create outlines of your readings, keep a glossary of terms, whatever it takes to get your brain engaged in the process.

Finally, read, re-read and then read it again. Each time you read, you'll find something new, learn something different, and retain more and more of what you need to know.

You'll make new connections and gain new insight.

And if you're worried it takes too much time?

Most of your classes end in a final of some sort, and that final is based on the readings you have done.

Whether you spend the time reading throughout the semester or cramming in a sleepless energy-drink-fuelled session is up to you. But I know from experience which one is better for your education (not to mention health) in the long run.

DR. LEE SKALLERUP BESSETTE IS AN ENGLISH AND WRITING INSTRUCTOR WHO HAS BEEN TEACHING AT COLLEGES FOR ALMOST 15 YEARS, IN THREE DIFFERENT STATES, TWO COUNTRIES AND TWO LANGUAGES.

Active reading tips

- **Power down.** When you sit down to read, put your phone and laptop away so the screens don't suck you in.
- **Take notes.** Research has shown that the act of writing things down on paper helps the brain remember and retain facts. Think of it as retro cool.
- **Deep breaths.** Simple meditation techniques like focused breathing can bring you back to the moment and to the page in the gigantic book you're reading too.

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It doesn't have to be a semester of KD

Some food for thought. Avoid both an empty stomach and an empty bank account by devouring these suggestions

RIANA TOPAN
TalentEgg.ca

There are better ways to start your days than with a bowl of chocolate cereal and your chemistry notes. ISTOCK

It's important to follow a balanced diet of nutritious foods to stay healthy. However, a lot of people find it difficult to make good choices in the grocery store, whether it's because the healthier items are more expensive than the less nutritious ones or because we don't always know which foods are best for us.

If it's true that we are what we eat, we can't really afford to not make smart decisions when it comes to food.

Thankfully, and contrary to popular belief, eating well doesn't have to mean buying costly organic foods or shopping at pricey health food stores, though if you can afford to get your groceries at your local farmers' market or health food store, by all means do.

It can actually be quite easy to eat well while saving money on your grocery bill each month if you follow these simple tips.

Plan ahead

Before heading to the store, you should always check the store's flyer to see what's on sale and make a list of what you plan to buy.

Your shopping list should include staples and items that are on sale or in-season. If you have the time, you can visit multiple grocery stores to take advantage of sales at each place. If that's not an option, pick the store that usually has good deals. Know what you are able to spend before you start shopping and match it to your list in order to avoid impulse buys.

Track your total

You've probably noticed that the cost of the contents of your shopping cart can add up quickly.

To avoid being surprised at the cash, keep track of what your total will be as you add each item to your cart or basket. Use the calculator on your phone or a notepad if you need to.

Seem like a hassle? It's a great way to figure out which items really aren't worth what they bring to your table.

Make healthy choices

Begin your shopping by circling the store's perimeter, where the produce, bakery, meat and dairy sections usually are. Fill your cart up with fresh foods. Make an effort to choose items that are on sale. The food in the aisles is usually more processed, therefore less nutritious, and is often more expensive, though there are exceptions: lentils, beans and other legumes, and brown rice, barley, steel-cut oats and other whole grains are extremely healthy, filling, inexpensive food choices. If you are not already incorporating them into your diet, now is a good time to start. Your wallet and your body will benefit.

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Cooking – ESL Friday, Jan. 31, 9:30 a.m. – room 112	Downtown
Culinary arts Friday, Jan. 31, 9:30 a.m. – room 112	Downtown
Dental technology Friday, Jan. 24, 4:30 p.m. – room 330	Downtown
Drafting technician Tuesday, Jan. 28, 4 p.m. – room 718	Downtown
English for professional advancement Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2 & 4:30 p.m. – room 235	Downtown
Jewellery art and design Friday, Jan. 24, 1:30 p.m. – room 160	Downtown

Downtown campus
located at 200-block Dunsmuir at Hamilton, two blocks west of Stadium SkyTrain station.

Broadway campus
located at 1155 East Broadway, one block west of Clark Drive, across from VCC/Clark SkyTrain station.

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UBC qualifies 16 varsity teams

'Flawed plan.' Debated sport review process has caused growing angst with student-athletes, alumni

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

The first stage of UBC's controversial sport review is over, with the school naming more than a dozen teams that qualify for varsity status.

Tuesday's announcement, however, has created more angst for some student-athletes and alumni members.

With members of the UBC's men's ice hockey and field hockey teams watching with interest, Louise Cowin, vice-president of students, and Ashley Howard, managing director of athletics and recreation, officially named the 16 men's and women's teams that will retain their varsity status.

Another 13 teams did not qualify in this round. Coaches of those teams can now submit a five-year plan to the sport review advisory team in early February.

A decision on whether those teams will be moved to competitive club status will be made late next month. The school doesn't have a set number of teams that it will qualify for varsity status.

Among those teams that did not qualify as varsity in the first stage were the men's ice hockey and field hockey teams.

"It's extremely disappointing. The UBC men's field hockey team (has) been incredibly successful over the years, littered with men's national team members," said Arif Virjee of the men's field hockey team.

Cowin announced that an additional $500,000 will be committed to varsity teams and $300,000 to the department of athletics and recreation. However, the school feels it cannot sustain the current number of 29 varsity teams on what is believed to be a $6.1-million budget.

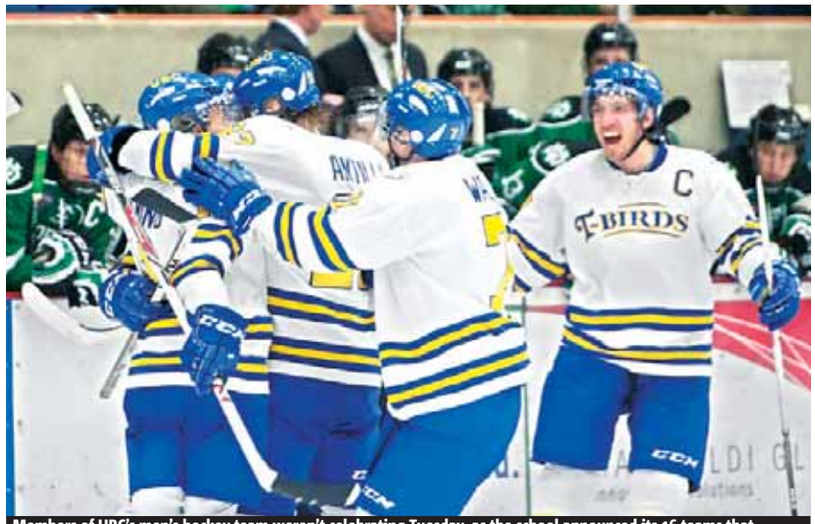
"It's not just a question of financial resources," said Cowin.

The school also denies this is a process in cutting teams, despite the clear fact a yet-to-be-determined number of them will be reduced to a club level.

The sport review has fallen under criticism from alumni members.

There is currently an online petition — as well as a website, saveubcvarsitysports.com — with more than 3,000 signatures of people opposed to the school reducing its number of varsity teams.

"I think it was a very flawed plan and they followed it up with a very flawed process.… It's been an unnecessarily divisive process," said Dr. Derek Swain, a UBC alumni member and chair of the Save UBC Varsity Sports Committee.



Members of UBC's men's hockey team weren't celebrating Tuesday, as the school announced its 16 teams that qualified for varsity status after the first stage of its sport review. The men's hockey program did not retain its varsity status. RICH LAM/UBC

Making the cut

Varsity teams/individual sports confirmed after the first stage of the review:

- Basketball (men and women); Field hockey (women); Football (men); Ice Hockey (women); Rugby (men); Soccer (men); Volleyball (women); Cross-country (men and women); Rowing (men and women); Swimming (men and women); Track and field (men and women).

MLS

Whitecaps select Canadian striker on last day of draft

The Vancouver Whitecaps dipped into the Canadian talent pool in the final day of the 2014 MLS SuperDraft.

The Whitecaps selected striker Mackenzie Pridham of Toronto in the fourth round, 58th overall, of the draft, which concluded Tuesday.

He played four seasons with the California Polytechnic State University Mustangs in the NCAA Big West Conference. He finished his college career as the men's program's all-time leader in goals with 27.

The Whitecaps also selected midfielder Michael Kafari in the third round, 51st overall, out of the University of New Mexico. Kafari is originally from Ghana, the same country as Vancouver's current midfielder Gershon Koffie.

With the 64th overall selection, the Whitecaps took another midfielder in Michael Calderon, also out of the University of Mexico.

Earlier Tuesday, the Whitecaps acquired an international spot through Dec. 31, 2014, from the Columbus Crew in exchange for Vancouver's third-round pick, 45th overall, in the final day of the draft. METRO

Michael Kafari
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Roberto Luongo makes a save in front of teammate Alexander Edler and the Oilers' Ryan Smyth in Edmonton on Tuesday. JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canucks hand Oilers 5th straight loss

Zack Kassian's second-period goal stood up as the game-winner as the Vancouver Canucks won their second in a row, defeating the Edmonton Oilers 2-1 on Tuesday.

Rookie Kellan Lain also scored for the Canucks (26-16-9), who have won just three of their last 11 games. Goalie Roberto Luongo made 28 saves for the win.

The Canucks were without leading scorer Henrik Sedin, who missed his first game in close to a decade with an injury, and head coach John Tortorella, who started his 15-day suspension for an altercation during a game against the Calgary Flames on Saturday.

On Tuesday

Canucks	Oilers
2	1

Jordan Eberle replied for the Oilers (15-31-6), who have lost five in a row and 10 of their last 12.

It was also Edmonton's fourth losing streak that has gone five games or more this season.

The Canucks return home to start a four-game stand against Nashville on Thursday. The Oilers' next game is on Friday, when they play host to the Phoenix Coyotes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Eugenie Bouchard, holding a stuffed animal of a wombat thrown by one of her admirers, celebrates after defeating Ana Ivanovic at the Australian Open, Tuesday. RICK RYCROFT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Army of Aussie men pledge their allegiance to Eugenie

Australian Open. Fans will see a lot more of Canadian Bouchard as she moves up the ranks

Supporters of Canada's Eugenie Bouchard watch her quarter-final against Ana Ivanovic in Melbourne, Tuesday. ANDREW BROWNBILL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

They've composed chants just for Canadian tennis player Eugenie Bouchard, roared for her until they went hoarse, and toasted her wins by fudging their way through "O Canada."

Meet the "Genie Army" — a dozen boisterous Aussies who, despite boasting zero connection to Canada, have become Bouchard's unofficial cheerleaders at the Australian Open.

Members of the weeks-old squad have jumped, danced and serenaded their way into an unmistakable grandstand presence during the Montreal teen's impressive run at the event, where she has earned a semifinal spot Thursday.

The devotees, mostly men in their 20s, have also fashioned red-and-white T-shirts that spell out Bouchard's name, flapped banners for her during matches, and lobbed plush animals — each of them native to Australia — to her on the court following each of her victories.

Though they have had little face-to-face interaction with Bouchard, they have certainly commanded her attention in Melbourne.

"The crowd here has been amazing, especially the Genie Army," Bouchard, 19, said Tuesday during an on-court interview after beating Ana Ivanovic.

She then pointed up to her noisy personal cheering section.

"I've had so much fun. Thank you guys."

The inspiration behind a brigade dedicated to Bouchard came after a bunch of Australian buddies watched her upset Ivanovic last year at Wimbledon, said one of the Army members.

In December, as the Australian Open approached, Jacob Wright said the crew decided to become her own booster club, so they started making shirts and penning Bouchard chants.

The Genie Army was born.

"She's just a great tennis player," Wright, 20, told The Canadian Press in a Skype interview from Melbourne.

"Obviously, she's a good-looking girl as well, and we're young guys, but she is a really good tennis player. It's really, really good fun to watch."

Their movement has had nothing to do with patriotism, either. When asked whether any of them had a connection to Canada, he replied: "None of us."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Snowboarding

Champ Anderson headlines Sochi Olympic team

Defending Olympic gold medallist Jasey-Jay Anderson and 2010 Olympians Dominique Maltais and Caroline Calve are among 19 athletes added to Canada's Olympic snowboard team.

Anderson, from Mont-Tremblant, Que., won gold in the men's parallel giant slalom at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics and is a four-time world champion.

Maltais, from Petite-Riviere-St-Francois, Que., won bronze in snowboard cross at the 2006 Turin Games and silver at the 2013 world championships. She'll be looking to rebound from a disappointing Olympics in 2010, where she failed to qualify for the final.

Calve, from Aylmer, Que., became the first Canadian to win a women's parallel giant slalom World Cup event in 2011 at Carezza, Italy. She recently took gold there again in December.

"Going to Sochi is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and one that I am honoured to have been chosen for," Calve said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Australian Open

Azarenka the latest star to fall

Victoria Azarenka's 18-match winning streak at the Australian Open ended in an upset 6-1, 5-7, 6-0 quarterfinal loss to Agnieszka Radwanska on Wednesday to continue the flow of stars tumbling out of the season's first major.

Fifth-seeded Radwanska ended her own streak of three consecutive quarter-final defeats at the Australian Open with a stunning display of versatile shot-making that shocked and confused the big-hitting Azarenka.

The result means both defending champions were out in the quarter-finals — Novak Djokovic in five sets to Stan Wawrinka the previous night.

Azarenka's defeat also followed the fourth-round exits of top-ranked Serena Williams and Maria Sharapova and leaves 2011 French Open champion Li Na as the only major winner remaining in the women's draw.

Radwanska next plays No. 20 Dominika Cibulkova, who won the last eight games in a one-hour quarter-final rout of Simona Halep. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBA. Durant drops 46 to lead OKC past Portland

Kevin Durant scored 11 of his 46 points in the final 3:23 to help the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Portland Trail Blazers 105-97 on Tuesday night.

Durant has scored at least 30 points for eight consecutive games, the longest such streak of his career. He made 17 of 25 field goals, including 6 of 7 3-pointers.

Reggie Jackson added 15 points for Oklahoma City (32-10), which took a one-game lead over Portland in the Northwest Division.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 29 points and 16 rebounds and Wesley Matthews added 21 points for Portland (31-11).

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Fight for good value in the Patriot

PHOTO: WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM

Review. Is the lowest-priced Jeep "Jeep-y" enough? It will do just fine for most

MALCOLM GUNN
wheelbasemedia.com

It's hard to believe, but some Jeep fans are unhappy that Chrysler has applied the Cherokee label to a much sleeker 2014 version that in no way resembles the previous decades-old design. For these folks, the one-word response is "Patriot".

Of course the Patriot, which is based on the now retired Dodge Caliber, lacks the rugged chops of the old Cherokee. However it closely resembles that boxy model and, unless you're planning some serious off-road running, it's actually better in most ways.

Funny thing about nostalgia: it often tends to obscure reality. Truth be told, the preceding American Motors-created Cherokee XJ wasn't all that comfortable and its four and six-cylinder engines were rough running and thirsty.

In fairness, the XJ did offer a bit more ground clearance and cargo space. But for most applications, including occasional off-road forays, the Patriot is up for the challenge. For anything more than that, Jeep's rugged Wranglers are likely your best choice. Keeping this Jeep on the move is a choice of four-cylinder engines that have been around since the Patriot first arrived for the 2007 model year. The base 2.0-litre makes 158 horsepower and 141 pound-feet of torque, while the optional 2.4-litre four-cylinder is rated at 172 horsepower and 165 pound-feet of torque. A five-speed manual transmission can be had in the front-wheel-drive 2.0 models and front and four-wheel-drive 2.4 Patriots. The 2.0 cannot be ordered with 4x4.

A six-speed automatic transmission (supplied by Hyundai) with manual shift controls is now optional for both engines, replacing the previous continuously variable unit (CVT). That might seem like an about-face from the current trend, but the new automatic makes for a quieter, more predictable experience. The base four-wheel-drive system for the 2.4 is Freedom Drive I. In ideal-traction conditions 100 per cent of the engine torque remains with the front wheels, but when tire slip is detected, power is automatically sent to the rears. The system also has a centre coupling that, once engaged, maintains a 50:50 torque split.

For actual trail-rated off-roading needs, the 2.4 can be ordered with the Freedom Drive II off-road package that has a 19:1 low-range "crawl" ratio for clambering over rocks and other obstacles. The system also includes hill-descent control that maintains a set speed during steep descents while brake lock differentials control side-to-side wheel rotation on both axles so that all wheels constantly turn at the same speed. The old CVT is mandatory with Freedom Drive II, although Jeep says it's made improvements to operation and drivability.

The base Sport trim level with the 2.0-litre engine is priced at $19,700, including destination charges, but is little more than a basic box on wheels. You even have to crank your own windows. The Patriot North, which comes with either 2.0 or the 2.4, adds power windows plus air conditioning and many other niceties.

Along with the 2.4-litre engine as standard, the top-end Limited (available in front or four-wheel-drive) comes with climate control, leather-trimmed seats, and an upgraded audio system.

Several available option groupings include a power sunroof, roof rack, all-terrain tires and drop-down liftgate speakers for tailgate partying. Despite best intentions, it's unlikely that Jeep die-hards will be moved to consider the Patriot as the ideal replacement for their long-gone Cherokee. For everyone else, this humble Jeep is still worthy of consideration.

Compare

1 Hyundai Tucson
Base price: $23,400

2 Ford Escape
Base price: $23,100

2014 Jeep Patriot

- **Type.** Four-door, front- or four-wheel-drive compact tall wagon
- **Engines (hp)** 2.0-litre DOHC I4 (158); 2.4-litre DOHC I4 (172)
- **Transmissions.** Five-speed manual; six-speed automatic (opt.); CVT (opt.)
- **Base price (incl. destination).** $19,700

Interior

If the Patriot resembles the old Cherokee on the outside, it looks nothing like it on the inside. An updating for 2009 included a more attractive (and less plasticky) dashboard and door panels, as well as upgraded upholstery.

Fuel economy

Fuel consumption rings in at 8.9 l/100 km in the city and 6.6 highway for base 2.0 models with the stick shift and 9.7/7.0 with the automatic. The least efficient models have Freedom Drive II and chime in at 10.3/8.7

*Limited time 2.9% semi-monthly lease offered through Toyota Financial Services on approved credit to qualified retail customers on all new 2014 Corolla models. First semi-monthly payment due at lease inception and next semi-monthly payment due approximately 15 days later and semi-monthly thereafter throughout the term. Toyota Financial Services will waive the final semi-monthly payment. Semi-monthly lease offers not open to employees of Toyota Canada, Toyota Financial Services or TMMC/TMMC Vehicle Purchase Plan. Some conditions apply. See your Toyota dealer for complete details. Example (applies across Canada except Quebec): 2014 Corolla CE 6M with a vehicle price of $16,415 (includes $1,100 Toyota Canada Lease Assist, which is deducted from the negotiated selling price after taxes, and $1,520 freight/PDI) leased at 2.9% over 60 months with $0 down payment equals 120 semi-monthly payments of $89 with a cost of borrowing of $1,735.85 and a total obligation of $12,369.05. $0 security deposit and first semi-monthly payment due at lease inception. Price and total obligation exclude license, insurance, registration, fees and taxes. 100,000 km allowance for 60 months, with ability to purchase additional kilometres at $0.05/km at time of lease inception, and a charge of $0.07/km for excess kilometres. Dealer may lease for less.

Usual suspects pickup 2013 accolades

Canadian vehicle sales. Record year in 2013 is spurred on by trusted, popular brands and a whole lot of pickup sales

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

The big news is that Canadians purchased over 1.7 million new vehicles in 2013, breaking the previous sales record, which stood for over a decade.

The not-so-big news is that the nameplates that did most of the heavy lifting in 2013 are ones we've seen before: F-Series, Honda Civic, Dodge Grand Caravan, Ford Escape, etc.

Man, as a group of vehicle buyers, Canadians are so predictable and consistent. We love our pickups, our compact sedans, our minivans, and our compact SUVS and crossovers. It would have been cool if, say, the Maserati Quattroporte outsold the Toyota Corolla, just once! But it's never going to happen I suspect.

Analysts attribute the sales surge to pent-up demand, a slowly recovering economy, and lots of lots of pickups being sold, particularly out west where the economy continues to be hotter than Tex-Mex BBQ sauce. Total pickup sales crossed the 300,000-unit frontier for the first time in history.

Top 10 sellers in 2013

1) Ford F-Series Pickup - 122,325
2) Chevrolet and GMC Pickup - 84,398
3) Dodge Ram Pickup - 80,248
4) Honda Civic - 64,603*
5) Dodge and Chrysler Minivan - 55,157
6) Toyota Corolla - 55,138
7) Hyundai Elantra - 54,760
8) Ford Escape - 45,141
9) Mazda 3 - 40,466
10) Honda CRV - 34,481

*TOP SELLING PASSENGER CAR
SOURCE: AUTOMOTIVE NEWS DATA CENTRE.

Will the 2015 Ford F-series sell as much as its predecessor? Pickups' popularity in general is sky high right now. CONTRIBUTED

Lots of pickup sales for work-related ventures for sure, but analysts say the trend toward more personal use pickups is also at play. The Ford F-Series topped all trucks and cars again in 2013, for its forth-consecutive overall sales crown.

It will be interesting to see if the all-new F-Series just introduced at the Detroit auto show will continue the winning legacy, seeing that Ford rolled the dice somewhat on this new model. It's the first pickup with virtually all-aluminum body panels, for a lighter and more fuel-efficient truck.

This should certainly appeal to the personal use crowd, but many wonder if the complexity and cost involved in fixing inadvertently crashed and dinged aluminum might scare off some fleet and commercial customers.

Chrysler's Ram pickups continue to make headway. As a group, they're still third behind the Ford and GM competitors, but an awfully strong third. Not long ago they used to be afterthoughts in the full-size segment. Strong F-Series, Focus, Fusion, and Escape sales helped Ford regain the top-selling automaker status in the Canadian marketplace, followed by Chrysler, then GM.

Jaguar is not going to threaten the Big Three anytime soon, or any of its luxury competitors as well, but it did post one of the best year-over-year increases: 1,263 Jaguars were sold in 2013, compared to 644 in 2012, an almost 100 per cent improvement. Certainly helping were the 229 F-type sports cars that found buyers in 2013. Jaguar has been out of that particular sports car segment for far too long, and it's great to see them back, and back with such a strong car. Other highlights and low-lights of the 2013 sales year:

When it came to strictly passenger cars (no trucks or CUVs or SUVs or minivans), Toyota was top, with a 12.8 percent share of the overall market. But Hyundai was not far behind with a 12.4 percent share. Honda was third with an 11.9 percent share.

Nissan Leaf sales almost doubled (470 vs. 240), while Chevrolet Volt's sales performance went somewhat the other way: down to 931 units, from 1,225 in 2012. Smart is staying consistent: 2,387 sales in 2012; 2,237 sales in 2013. Corvette is winning more fans: 324 sales, compared to 250 last year.

Two-hundred and fourteen new Ferraris went home with their lucky new buyers in 2013, up slightly from 2012, where 190 made the getaway.

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Is your poor credit preventing you from buying a car? It shouldn't, says Darcy Greig, director of special finance at Langley Autoloans.

"As a signing authority for more than a dozen finance sources, my job is to act just like a mortgage broker would to find my clients the best interest rates on a loan so that they can afford the vehicles they want and need," Greig says.

Individuals and small businesses took a hit during the recent economic downturn, and as a result many hard-working individuals have had to declare bankruptcy, Greig says.

"I help my clients rebuild their credit so that they can get their lives back again," she says. "There are a few tips and tricks to doing that fast."

Two little-known methods include making sure to pay your cellphone bill on time, and making a habit of only using about 60 per cent of the available credit on your credit card.

CONTRIBUTED

But among the many ways people can rebuild their credit, getting a car loan is one of the biggest. The larger the loan you are able to pay successfully, the more lenders trust you as a borrower, Greig says.

"With the right tools, anyone can rebuild their credit."

For more information, please visit langleyautoloans.com.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You may not agree with what you hear today but let others have their say. Free speech is worth fighting for. If someone shouts down opposing opinions, make it your business to defend their right to be different.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
If there is something you have been trying to do but every time you get started you are forced to stop, it could be a sign that you should be doing something else.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Certain people may be feeling down but they have no right to bring you down with them, so go where there is music playing and people dancing and not a sad face to be seen.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Someone older and wiser will give you advice today, and if you are smart, you will listen and learn. Don't forget there are more important things in life than material success, like doing the right thing.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Someone's negative attitudes are getting you down more than you care to admit. If you have been thinking of bringing a partnership to an end, now is the time to be decisive. Don't feel sorry for them.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You'll get more done over the next 24 hours than you got done in the past 24 days. But don't think that means you have to work harder. Achieve more by doing less.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
First appearances can be deceptive, so don't be put off if someone you meet seems too serious for your tastes. The planets suggest you will be working together. Do what you can to put them at ease.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You may be reserved but every now and again you go right the other way and say things that shock. This is one of those days. You've had enough of criticisms. It's time to hit back.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Let others know what they are doing is wrong and what they must do to put it right. Don't allow yourself to worry that you might bruise their egos. Honesty is the best policy .

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You are trying hard to deny your feelings for someone because you fear it might damage your reputation. Maybe it will, but is that really a good enough excuse to turn your back on affection?

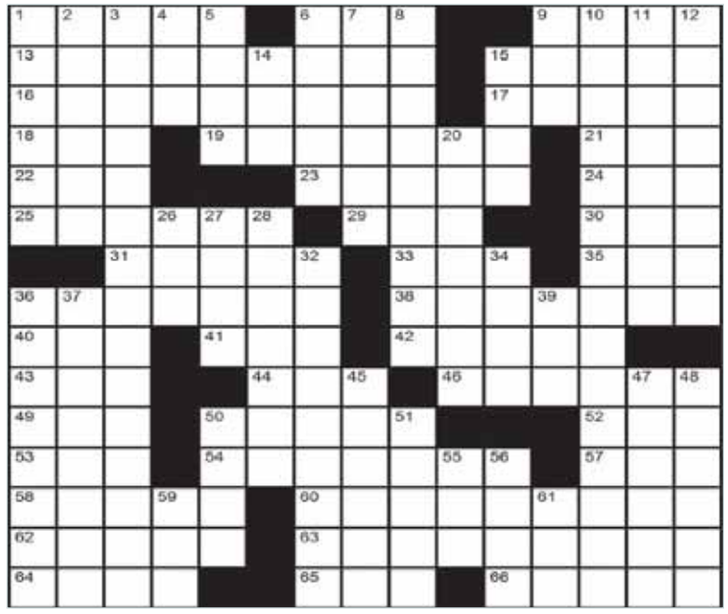
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Although this is your time of year what happens today may take the gloss off things a bit. In a way that's good because you need days like this to remind you that all those other days must not be taken for granted.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Don't worry if the party spirit seems to have passed you by because it is the inner spirit that matters. The planets indicate the deeper you think about your life's meaning, the more you will enjoy it. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

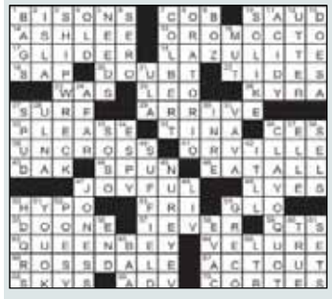
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. "___ always the case..."
6. Pouch
9. Rhyme scheme
13. Canadian basketball star: 2 wds.
15. Elongated circles
16. Toronto restaurant, The Old __ Factory
17. Ms. Croft's of video games
18. At the age of, in Latin [abbr.]
19. The first Mrs. de Winter's memory haunts in this 1940 Hitchcock thriller
21. Pre-A.D. time
22. Q. "Is __ '_' that goes after 'G'?" A. "Yes."
23. Comedy's Mr. Smirnoff
24. Escaped
25. Jane of "Hot in Cleveland"
29. #13-Across' team, on scoreboards
30. Mr. Carney
31. Tear paper: 2 wds.
33. Greyish-brown
35. Canonized Mlle.
36. "The Towering __" (1974)
38. Gave off
40. Beatles: Chairman in "Revolution"
41. Hockey's Bobby
42. Record
43. Stray
44. "The Simpsons" storekeeper
46. Toronto college; or, Roman statesman
49. Expert
50. Film critic Jeffrey
52. Lithium-__ battery
53. Ms. Kidman, to pals
54. "Are things all set?": 4 wds.
57. Soak, in dialect
58. Sovereign sorts
60. Purple __, Nunavut's official flower
62. Matter
63. "So __" by Whitney Houston
64. Hull 'head'
65. Red Chamber fig.
66. ___ harm (Hurtnot)

Down
1. Bombard
2. __. __ (Florida resort city, commonly)
3. Environment Canada daily info: 2 wds.
4. Dow Jones Ind. __.
5. "__ gut!" (Very good, in German)
6. Didn't help: 2 wds.
7. "It's _ __!" (Seller's pitch)
8. NB's provincial bird, Black-capped __
9. Flame of Frank's
10. Celebrity who dated Pierre Trudeau: 2 wds.
11. Menu option: 3 wds.
12. Gave the green light
14. Born, in Boucherville
15. King of Norway [var. sp.]
20. Newspaper features
26. Try
27. Tune on Beck's 2005 album 'Guero'
28. From-the-sky beams
32. Cute cetaceans
34. Fun evening?
36. "My opinion was no joke.": 3 wds.
37. Manitoba: __ Snake Dens
39. "The __ Commandments" (1956)
45. Wild
47. Jackie who was the 'kid' in Charlie Chaplin movie "The Kid" (1921)
48. Mr. Mosca, honoured member of the Canadian Football Hall of Fame
50. Ms. Watier
51. Anglo-__
55. "Vamoose!"
56. Comic strip, Wizard __ __
59. Regret
61. King: French

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	2		6		4		7	
			3		8			
7		6				1		3
		1	4		9	7		
6								5
		7	8		5	3		
2		8				9		7
			2		7			
	7		5		6		4	

Yesterday's Sudoku

3	7	2	6	4	1	8	5	9
1	4	8	9	5	3	7	6	2
5	9	6	2	8	7	3	1	4
9	8	1	3	7	6	4	2	5
2	5	4	1	9	8	6	3	7
6	3	7	5	2	4	1	9	8
8	2	3	4	1	5	9	7	6
7	1	5	8	6	9	2	4	3
4	6	9	7	3	2	5	8	1

Today
7°/2°
Partly cloudy
Thursday
8°/4°
Sunny
Know what the weather will be 14 days from now.
Check the 14 day trend.
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5 YEAR WARRANTY

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